RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 18th May, 1995/28 Visakha, 1917 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,
Mr Chairman *in the chair*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SC/ST beneficiaries under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana

*601. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of beneficiaries belonging to SC and ST under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) whether the reservation targets so fixed for the SCs and STs have been achieved during the above period, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPTT. OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES & AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) 2834 and 21,215 beneficiaries belonging to SC/STs have been sanctioned loan during 1993-94 and 1994-95 respectively as reported by State/UT Governments.

(b) and (c): Under the scheme reservation stipulation is 22.5% for SC/ST beneficiaries. 8.9% and 11.3% cases have been sanctioned to SC/ST beneficiaries out of total cases sanctioned during 1993-94 and 1994-95. Efforts are being made to improve the participation of SC/STs in the scheme.

SHRI SANATAN BISI: Sir, my question was specific, but the answer is quite confusing. I want to know from the Minister the target for 1993-94 and 1994-95. I have very clearly asked for the target.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, for the period from October, 1993 to March, 1994, the proposed target is 40,000

SHRI SANATAN BISI: For 1994-95?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: For 1994-95, it is 2,20,000.

SHRI SANATAN BISI: So, it appears that there is very low percentage of sanction. What are you going to do to achieve the target?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, as far as the sanction is concerned, it is about 75 to 80 per cent. Therefore, it is satisfactory. We are trying to achieve the fullest target with active participation and active co-operation of the State Governments. We are having interaction with various State Governments to improve the target.

SHRI SANATAN BISI: Sir, the main question is that....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your second supplementary is finished.

SHRI SANATAN BISI: No, Sir. My first question was: what was the target?

My second question is this. The reservation is 22.5 per cent, but the achievement is only 8.9 per cent and 11.3 per cent. They are far behind the target.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: We are always having a low percentage of Scheduled Caste candidates because there are various reasons. The reasons are: adequate number of eligible Scheduled Caste candidates are not available; entrepreneurship qualities in Scheduled Caste communities are not available under the given socio-economic background; and the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates prefer Government jobs where reservation has been provided. The financial schemes which benefit the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates are much attractive. There are interest-free loans, interest-subsidised loans, grants to the

Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates, a higher percentage of subsidy and other Government schemes. Therefore, even in the past, in the earlier schemes also, we had the same percentage of participation by the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates. We are trying to improve the participation of the Scheduled Caste candidates with active co-operation of the State Governments.

श्री राम रतन राम: सर, जहां तक रोज़गार का सवाल है, यह ज्यादातर ठेके पर दिया जाता है जबकि शासन के आदेश यह है कि उन्हें डायरेक्ट रोज़गार दिया जाए। क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताएंगे कि ऐसे लोगों को जो एस०सी० और एस०टी० के लोग हैं, उनको ठेकेदार के माध्यम से रोज़गार दे रहे हैं या उन्हें आप सीधे रोज़गार दे रहे हैं क्योंकि आपने जो नंबर बताया है, उससे यह स्पष्ट होता है कि एस०सी० और एस०टी० के लोग इस कारणवश काम करने के लिए उत्साहित नहीं हो रहे हैं। तो कृपया यह स्पष्ट करें कि क्या आप उन्हें डायरेक्ट रोजगार देते हैं या ठेकेदार के माध्यम से रोज़गार देते हैं।

SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister is evasive. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister has got any State-wise break-up. Secondly, whether the task force engaged to identify the beneficiaries could complete its task to identify the beneficiaries targeted for. If they have not finished their identification work, actually what percentage to that effect they could comply with and what percentage is left over. I would also like to know whether the financial institutions which are to give Rs. 100 lakh to the beneficiaries give them the entire amount. If not, actually how many people were left behind to take that Rs. 1.00 lakh. And if the target fixed for a particular year is not met, does the balance of the amount lapse for the year or is carried over the next year or is diverted to other districts or States?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, I have the State-wise target figures. If the hon. Member wants to have it, I can pass it on to him.

Secondly, in regard to the question whether the entire amount is paid to the entrepreneur, I may inform him that it depends on the amount of the project. If the project amount is less than Rs. 1.00 lakh then he is given the...

SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: Sir, if the project cost is around Rs. 1.00 lakh, I would like to know whether part payment is made and the part payment is held up and if so, what the reason for that is.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, if the task force has recommended Rs. 1.00 lakh for the project, definitely he will be getting his share, i.e. 90 per cent of Rs. 1.00 lakh.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Sir, the Rozgar Yojana is a self-employment scheme. I do not know why the Government applies the 22.5 per cent limit here. The reply given is that the 22.5 per cent target is not achieved. It is only eight per cent. When it is a self-employment scheme, why should this limit be there?

Secondly, the Minister in his answer says, "if the projects are not found feasible, or if reasonable level of entrepreneurs are not coming." Why should he compare these classes who are for the first time coming into this? There should be an opportunity given to them. Even in the District Industrial Centres there are people for whom there are feasible projects, but the Scheduled Caste people have no access to these projects. Past experience is one of the factors. He has no experience. He is coming to the scene for the first time applying for the job under the self-employment Scheme. So, this type of norm should not be there. Even the Task Force does not include a representative from the

Scheduled Castes at all. Bank Managers, District Industrial Centres and some technical people are represented in the Task Force even to assess the project or to look into the entrepreneurship. So, where is the leniency given to the Sc/ST people who come in the fields for the first time? A person coming from an affluent class or from an industrial house or a person who has got a background is different from the SC/ST person. So, the target concept on self-employment is wrong. Special provisions and facilities are to the given to these people to come in. I do not know whether the reply given by the hon. Minister is a studied reply. There are other lucrative or attractive projects. We know a number of educated unemployed people are wandering. If there are subsidies or attractive projects why should they be wandering in the streets? So, I do not think any study has been made to how many of comparatively these people have gone there and how many people are still waiting. Without a comparative study. this general answer would not satisfy the SC/ST people.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, coming to the first point raised by the hon. Member. the percentage of reservation is 22.5 per cent. Earlier, under the SEWE scheme we had, a reservation of 30 per cent. But in that scheme also, we could not reach 30 per cent. We are able to get only 18 to 13 per cent. Therefore, we have fixed reservation at 22.5 per cent.

Sir, coming to the second question of the hon. Member regarding steps taken by the Government to improve the participation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, I would like to inform him that we have had a national conference very recently, that is, 31st August, 1994, in which representatives from all the State Governments participated. We have give them guidelines to improve the participation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Regarding the task force which the hon. Member has mentioned, I would like to inform him that very recently we have decided to include one officer who is looking after the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at the district level. Therefore, Sir, with this, the participation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will improve.

श्री मोहिन्दर सिंह कल्याण: सभापति जी, मैं आनरेबल मिनिस्टर साहब से यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि जो प्राइम मिनिस्टर रोज़गार योजना है, इस योजना में एस०सी० और एस०टी० के लिए 25 प्रतिशत रिज़र्वेशन है। क्या आप यह बताने की कोशिश करेंगे कि जो आई०टी०आई० और सी०आई०टी० से ट्रेंड जो शैड्यूल्ड कास्ट्स और शैड्यूल्स ट्राइब्स के आदमी हैं, उनमें से कितने लोगों को आपने कर्ज दिया है और कितने आवेदन दफ्तर में अब तक पेंडिंग है जिनको कर्ज नहीं मिला है। एक लाख रुपये का कितने शैड्यूल्स कास्ट्स को आपने अब तक कर्ज दिया है, यह मैं पूछना चाहता

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, qualifications have been prescribed for these candidates. If a candidate is a metric pass or failed or IIT passed or has underegone a Government-sponosred technical course for a minimum duration of six months, he can apply and avail of the facility under the scheme.

श्री मोहिन्दर सिंह कल्याण: आपके यहां कितने आए हुए हैं जिन्होंने आई०टी०आई० और सी०आई०टी० से ट्रेनिंग ली हुई है? उनको कर्ज नहीं दिया जाता है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इस प्राइम मिनिस्टर रोज़गार योजना में रिज़र्वेशन है, क्या आपने वह रिज़र्वेशन पूरी की है या नहीं की है, आप यह बताएं।

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given this reply in my main answer itself. In the year 1993-94, 2,834 beneficiaries belonging to SC/ST have been sanctioned. If 1994-95, 21,215 beneficiaries belonging to SC/ST have been sanctioned. I do not have the break up of the beneficiaries qualification-wise.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: मंत्री जी, उन्होंने यह पूछा था...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri S.P. Gautam, I am asking you to put the question. ...(*Interruptions*)... Mr. Gautam, I am asking you to put the question.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Thank you, Sir.

श्री मोहिन्दर सिंह कल्याण: मेरा जवाब अभी अधूरा है। मैंने आई० टी० आई० और डी० आई० टी० ...(व्यवधान...)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister says that he doesn't have the figures of beneficiaries qualifications-wise

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: That is what I have answered. I have the total cumulative figure but not the qualification-wise break up figures.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: सभापति जी, प्रत्येक प्रदेश में औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों के माध्यम से विभिन्न प्रकार के तकनीकी प्रशिक्षण दिये जाते हैं। लेकिन उस तकनीकी प्रशिक्षण के बाद कोई काम प्रारम्भ करना चाहता है तो उसके लिए उसे स्थान भी चाहिये, दुकान भी चाहियें, मशीनरी भी चाहिये। हमारी उत्तर प्रदेश में पहले कुछ जिलों में और शहरों में उनको सरकारी जमीन उपलब्ध करा कर दुकानों का निर्माण कराया गया था लेकिन अब वह योजना भी समाप्त हो गई है। अगर एक लाख रुपया उसको दें और उसके बाद कोई दुकान और स्थान नहीं है किसी कस्बे में तो वह अनुसूचित जाति अनुसूचित जनजाति का व्यक्ति जो प्रशिक्षित भी है और जिसे पैसा भी मिल चुका है वह कहां पर अपनी दुकान रखेगा, कहां पर धंधा चलाएगा। क्या आप कोई ऐसी व्यवस्था सुनिश्चित करने जा रहे है कि प्रशिक्षण के बाद जो आदमी पैसा लेता है उस पैसे का सदुपयोग करने और अपना धंधा चलाने के लिए आवश्यक रूप से दुकान और स्थान पा सकेगा?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, this scheme does not provide contract employment. We are providing direct employment to the beneficiaries, educated unemployed youths of the Scheduled Castes. Subsidies under the Industrial Policy of the State Government. Such concession should also be expended to the beneficiaries under the scheme. The State Governments should give priority to the persons getting loans sanctioned under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for electricity connection. If you have any specific case, we will take it up with the State Government.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Sir, what is this? I have asked a specific question. Mr. Kalyan asked how many persons had been allotted one lakh rupees each. The Minister did not reply to that question. To the question as to how many applications were pending before them, he did not reply. I am asking a specific question whether you would provide shops or sites for carrying on the trades and businesses of those to whom the money is allotted.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, that as what I have stated. The State Governments have to provide. We have requested the State Governments. The State Governments are taking steps on that direction. I have already mentioned in the House the number of cases.

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Sir, the concept of the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana is good. But, unfortunately, it has been misused by certain elements in Andhra Pradesh. This has been highlighted by the Press also. Is there any proposal by the Ministry to streamline this? In the name of poor people, these elements swindle away. the money. Is there any proposal with the Ministry to streamline the working, to check such illegal activities?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: We have a task force at the district level. We have a task force at the state level. We have a task force at the national level. And even the Prime Minister's Office is monitoring the programme. If there is any specific complaint, we will take it up

with the appropriate authorities. There is a task force at the ground level.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी: श्रीमन, यह जो कर्ज देने की बात है, रुपया देने की बात है, बैंक्स के द्वारा इसकी व्यवस्था है। बैंक्स की वर्किंग और इसके लिए जो पैसा इस समय अवेलेबुल है उसकी इतनी कमी है कि जयपुर में ही 4 हजार के करीब एप्लीकेशंस आने के बाद केवल 26 या 28 एप्लीकेशंस मंजूर की जा सकी हैं। यह जो प्रोग्रेस है इसमें ज्यादा एप्लीकेशंस मंजूर हों और उनको समय पर पैसा मिल जाए क्या इसके लिए कोई विशेष व्यवस्था या विशेष फंड एलाट करेंगे या किया हुआ है?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, under the scheme, money is not a problem. According to the Reserve Bank of India, in February-March, 1995, they have sanctioned, disbursed, Rs. 341.69 crores under this scheme.

SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: But, state-wise, how many cases in each? Applications are in lakhs now. You say only Rs. 3,003 lakhs were distributed. What is the percentage that way?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: That is what I am saying. So far, up to the end of March, 1995, 1,87,821 cases have been sanctioned and an amount of Rs. 341.69 crores has been disbursed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 602.

Utilization of Biotechnology for Economic Growth

*602. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Biotechnology can gainfully be employed for national development and economic growth in the country;

(b) if so, in what manner this can be achieved;

(c) what is being done in our country in this regard;

(d) whether it is also a fact that our country is lagging far behind in this area; and

(e) if so, what steps are being taken to bring our country at par with other countries developed in this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPTTS. OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): A Statement with respect to (a) to (e) is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Biotechnology is a repaidly advancing Field and finds application in the areas of agriculture, health, environment protection, industry and many other developmental sectors. Scientific agencies, namely, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), the Department of Biotechnology, the Atomic Energy and many socio-economic Ministries are engaged in research and development, demonstration and application efforts. To accelearate the development and appliction of this field, a separate Department of Biotechnology was created. A large number of programmes of national relevance for economic growth have been taken up. Some of the successful ones are: demonstration of oil palm cultivation, cardamom, biofertilizers, biological pest control, semi-intensive aquaculture of prawn, and embryo transfer technology for cows, buffaloes and sericulture. Research and development in frontline areas of biotechnologies; creation of infrastructure facilities and a human resource development programme in 32 institutions have been started. Scientists are engaged on products and process based, demand driven research projects for economic growth in the country.